

A NEW SPECIES OF GENUS *DARWINIA* (MYRTACEAE) FOR QUEENSLAND

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Summary

Darwinia decumbens is described as new. Its relationship to *D. fascicularis* is discussed.

Darwinia decumbens Byrnes, sp. nov. affinis *D. fasciculare* Rudge calycis tubo 10—costato, stylo brevi, bracteolis sine carina vel apiculo, ovulis pluribus differt. **Typus:** Byrnes 3951 (BRI, holo; CANB, K, NSW, iso).

Shrub, decumbent to 15 cm high and 2 m diam., producing adventitious roots on prostrate branches. Internodes becoming shorter towards apex of branchlets but not crowded. Leaves opposite, terete, often channelled or flattened on basal part of adaxial surface, 6–12 mm long, *ca* 0.4 mm diam., acute, usually apiculate, sessile or indistinctly petiolate, glaucous, becoming reddish brown. Flowers borne singularly in leaf axils on pedicels *ca* 2 mm long. Bracteoles hoodlike, obovate, obtuse, not keeled, 4–5 mm long, caducous. Calyx tube 10—ribbed at least in upper part, cylindrical, sometimes constricted near apex, 4–5 mm long, green; calyx lobes entire, obtuse triangular, 0.3–0.5 mm long; petals orbicular *ca* 1.5 mm diam.; stamens and staminodes 10; anthers globose, lobed; style 6–10 mm long with subapical ring of hairs; ovary *ca* 2.5 mm long; ovules 8 on a secund placenta. Fruit unknown.

Queensland. DARLING DOWNS DISTRICT: Barakula State Forest, 16 Sep 1980, Byrnes 3951 (BRI, NSW, CANB, K, Type); Waaje, Barakula Forestry area, in 1973, Hando 113; Ballon State Forest, 17 Aug 1971, Nielson.

Range. This species is known only from a restricted area within state forests north-west of Barakula.

Habitat. In shrubland on shallow sandy soils containing lateritic pebbles.

The species superficially resembles *Homoranthus flavescens* which grows in the area and was originally confused with that species. It differs in not having hairlike calyx-lobes characteristic of *Homoranthus*.

D. decumbens is most closely related to *D. fascicularis* but differs in that the calyx tube has ten ribs, the bracteoles are not keeled or apiculate, the style is shorter, and the flowers do not range from white to red as in the *D. fascicularis* group. It differs from all other species in the *D. fascicularis* group in having eight ovules and in this way is more closely related to *Homoranthus*. The habit of *D. decumbens* is similar to that of *D. fascicularis* var. *oligantha* but the upright branchlets are not long and the leaves are thinner and not crowded.

Plants of *D. procumbens* each covered several square metres in the area observed and the leaves are at first glaucous green becoming reddish-brown to purple with age. The flowers were insignificant.

Acknowledgements

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References

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BRIGGS, B. G. (1962). New South Wales species of *Darwinia*. *Contributions from the New South Wales National Herbarium* 3: 129–150.

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